

Spring 1998

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RILA

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RHODE ISLAND Library Association *Bulletin*

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President's Message

KATHY ELLEN BULLARD

GREETINGS! MEMBERSHIP FOR 1998 IS GOING VERY WELL. But a few of you have forgotten to renew. By the time you read this, a member of the Executive Board should have called you to remind you of your oversight. Also, if you know of someone new to our state, let me know so that I can call them and personally invite them to become RILA members.

I still remember the call I received from Jim Giles almost ten years ago. I honestly don't remember if he was calling on RILA's behalf, or calling about something else. But I do remember that the conversation encompassed his gracious welcoming of me to the state and his telling me the important benefits of joining RILA. As you can see, it made a lasting impression on me. I can think of nothing that would please me more than to make a similar impression on a librarian new to Rhode Island.

Our listserv continues to languish somewhat in cyberland. The Executive Board needs to hear from you as to why you do not use it, as to how you think we could improve it, and anything else you'd

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The Once and Future Book Club: Reading Groups in Rhode Island Libraries

CYNTHIA T. ARCHAMBAULT

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY HAS ALWAYS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH BOOK LOVERS and, even with the growing computerization of resources, books remain central to library collections. If computers have become the brains of the library, books are the heart. And where there are book readers, there spring up groups of people who like to get together and talk over what they have read. Whether they are called book groups, reading clubs or discussion groups, they consist of readers of all ages from all walks of life who enjoy sharing a love of reading.

There are several books about book groups available for people interested in starting one: *The Mother-Daughter Book Club* by Shireen Dodson (1997); *The New York Public Library Guide to Reading Groups* by Rollene Saal (1995); *The Book Group Book*, Ellen Slezak, editor (1993) and *The Reading Group Companion* by David Laskin (1995) are some recent titles.

Public library-based reading groups abound in Rhode Island. In a recent informal survey, libraries large and small, from all parts of the state, reported active book discussion groups. Among them are the Tyler Free Library in Foster; the Harmony

Public Library; the Weaver Memorial and Rumford Branch libraries in East Providence; and the George Hail Free Library in Warren, where the members have focused on works relating to Warren and have embarked on writing their own town history.

Most book groups seem to prefer a monthly schedule: the Hope Library in Scituate, the Greenville Public Library, the Clark Memorial Library in Richmond, and the Essex Public and Union Public libraries in Tiverton all have groups that meet once a month. There are two book groups that congregate monthly at the Jamestown Philomenian Library. One is a daytime book discussion group which focuses on books

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related to women's issues. The other is a Monday night group that covers a range of topics. In some libraries, the book groups have been around for years and are highly organized. In others, the reading clubs are more casual groups, friends who socialize around the books they read and who use the library resources to facilitate their meetings. In this column, some Rhode Island librarians share their experiences with reading groups.

THE AUBURN BRANCH'S MODERN READING GROUP

**Karen McGrath,
Branch Librarian**

The Modern Reading Group of the Cranston Public Library, Auburn Branch, has read and discussed more than 350 books in its long history. The group began at the William Hall Library in 1970 and moved to the Auburn Branch in 1972, where it has remained ever since.

The group currently meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month from September to June from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. We now read eight books a year. The December meeting is a holiday party with the members bringing along a poem or story to share along with the goodies and in June, we go out to lunch. The group reads mostly fiction, but occasionally reads essays, nonfiction, especially biography, and plays.

The term "Modern" is a bit deceptive. The group has read Chaucer, Shakespeare, and the Book of Job, although we do mostly read twentieth century authors. The members of the group suggest titles. There are very few rules for what is acceptable. We need to be able to get 12-15 copies through the CLAN system and the book has to have 250 pages or less. Experience has shown that we don't finish the longer books!

This year's titles are a good sampling, although we have no nonfiction this year: *Evangeline* by Henry W.

Longfellow; *Before Women Had Wings* by Connie May Fowler; *Saving Grace* by Lee Smith; *Autobiography of My Mother* by Jamaica Kincaid; *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Thornton Wilder; *Woman and the Ape* by Peter Hoeg; *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde, and we will finish the season with Henrik Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*. Occasionally the group will revisit a work that has been discussed in the past: they last read *The Picture of Dorian Gray* in 1973.

New members are always welcome. Currently 14 women belong to the group (although we are not a "women's group" and have had men as members in the past). We average ten members at each meeting. Three of the current members have been with the group since the move to Auburn in 1972.

Those interested may call Karen McGrath, Auburn Branch Librarian at 781-6116.

THE CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

**Lynda Ross
Reference Librarian**

Fifty or more patrons expressed an interest in joining a book discussion group at the Cranston Public Library but only twelve brave souls attended the first meeting in January of 1995. To prepare for that day, Roberta Zim-merly, then Knightsville Branch supervisor, and I had discussed what we wanted in a group. We consulted books written by other group moderators for advice such as *The Reading Group Handbook* by Rachel Jacobsen and *The Book Group Book* by Ellen Slezak.

That first year Roberta and I selected fiction titles that represented a mix of genres. In doing so, we hoped to please everyone at least part of the time. That list featured mystery, science fiction, classics, adventure and international authors. We chose titles

that were readily available in the CLAN system – no current best sellers or reserve titles. In fact, we often chose a popular author's early work or the last title in a series rather than the first.

Now in our fourth year, the book group has 30 registered members. Barbara Angelone-Poulin assists me with the meetings which are held once a month. The group still enjoys reading books that represent multiple genres and a variety of writing styles. One important change that we have made is that the group members now select the books for discussion. Members submit fiction titles and I compile the suggestions in an annotated selection list from which each group member selects his or her favorite 12 titles. The titles with the most votes comprise the reading list for the upcoming year.

An information sheet is provided for group members at each meeting. I create the handout using sources available in the reference collection such as *Current Biography*, *Contemporary Authors*, *Book Review Digest*, *EBSCO Periodical Index* and the Internet. I look for information about the author's life, their ideas about writing, a list of other works by the author and any other tidbits that the group might find interesting such as book reviews or whether there have been film adaptations of the discussion title. The handout also provides a number of discussion questions although we seldom address them one by one.

This group thrives on sharing their ideas and on listening and reacting to the ideas of other members. The experience has been enriching for me as well. I have learned to explore literature more deeply and delight in the remarks of the group members who share opinions concerning the plot, characters or style that never occurred to me. It has offered a unique opportunity to get to know my patrons and spend more time listening to them than I ever could experience at a busy service desk.

The North Kingstown Free Library
Donna Dufault
Director

A year ago, the staff at the North Kingstown Free Library realized that a number of inquiries had been received from our patrons indicating interest in joining a book club. We asked some of our patrons who were already in clubs if they were looking for new members; however, most of the active reading groups had a full complement of participants.

A member of our circulation department was one of those interested in belonging to a reading group. She asked if the library could sponsor a program that would guide folks who wanted to start a new group together in a safe environment, the library. I agreed that this was a good idea. She and the president of our Friend's group and I brainstormed and planned a program called "So You Always Wanted To Be In A Book Club". It was held in April with about 15 people attending.

We invited two women from local book clubs to talk about how their clubs started, how they ran their clubs and how they picked their monthly titles. We had handouts about book clubs, including a bibliography of books about running reading groups. We did not offer to run a "library book club" ourselves as our staff was extremely busy with other programming projects and a book club did not fit into anyone's schedule.

There was a great deal of enthusiasm and in May, this core group held "A Book Club Organizational Meeting" that was promoted in our library newsletter. They met once but just did not seem to get off the ground. No library staff attended so I do not know the issues involved. Our circulation staff member had by this time started her own group composed of people that she knew.

It was not a complete failure however, because there was an unexpected

outcome. Two of the attendees of the first meeting were a mother and her teenage daughter, both of whom love to read. The mother has since organized a "teen" reading club that now meets once a month at the library. The group has about ten members and is currently writing teen book reviews that will soon be added to our Teen Web page.

The Willett Library Book Club

The Willett Free Library in the village of Saundertown in North Kingstown has a book club that celebrated its fifth anniversary in February. It is open to the members of the Willett Library neighborhood and their guests. The Willett Book Club has 25 members and meets the second Tuesday of each month except in December.

Once a year the members have a meeting at which they select titles for the following year. Joan Pilson, one of the group's discussion facilitators, says that the members feel that fiction offers greater discussion opportunities but that they try to include at least one non-fiction title each year, as well as one "classic" work of fiction. The club relies on Willett librarian Peggy Cocroft to acquire sufficient copies of each title through interlibrary loan.

Since the Willett Library is too small to accommodate all of the group, the club takes turns meeting in the homes of the members. Each meeting has a hostess who provides the meeting place and a facilitator who takes charge of the discussion. On average, 15 people attend a meeting: each participant is asked to prepare one question about the book. These questions will be used by the facilitator to guide the discussion.

Some of the titles on the 1998 reading schedule include *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin; *Stones from the River* by Ursula Hegi; *The Perfect Storm* by Sebastian Junger, and *Mansfield Park* by Jane Austen. Once a year

they have a dinner/discussion meeting and will read a "food-oriented" book for this session. For example, when they read *Fried Green Tomatoes* by Fannie Flagg, they served the recipes included at the end of that book. As Joan said, "It's hard to believe we've been doing this for five years already!"

Cynthia T. Archambault is
a Reference Librarian at the
Warwick Public Library

From the Committees...

Ad Hoc CE Committee:

The RILA Ad Hoc CE Committee has been meeting since January and has developed a mission statement and goals that have been approved by the RILA Executive Board. The Committee plans to sponsor 4-6 CE offerings per year outside the conference setting and is exploring the concept of mini workshops on demand. To date the Committee has sponsored two workshops on "Lori Pro E-Mail Basics" and will present a book repair workshop in July. Committee members include: Co-Chairs Mattie Gustafson and Frank Iacono, Ann Dodge, Michael Silvia, Susan Lepore, and Cynthia Archambault. New members are most welcome.

Conference Committee: The RILA Conference Committee has been meeting monthly since last September to plan the 1998 Spring RILA Conference. During this time, suggested ideas developed into confirmed programs as speakers were located and times and dates were scheduled. A keynote speaker, Keith Fiels, was invited to speak about multi-type library cooperation, the theme of this year's conference. Committee members took responsibility for various aspects of the conference, helping to plan programs, write, design and the publish the conference brochure, and coordinate site preparations, meals and registration.

Special thanks are extended to Kathy Ellen Bullard, RILA President, for her assistance, and to committee members Judy Bell, Florence Kell Doksansky, Susan Dunn, Jenny LaPerriere, Pat LaRose, Paul Martin, Committee Chair Karen McGrath, Ann Richard, and Pam (Stoddard) Mead for their unfailing help.

Intellectual Freedom Committee:

The IFC is in the last stages of revising and updating the *R.I. Intellectual Freedom Handbook*, last published in 1989. The *Handbook* will include all ALA interpretations of the *Library Bill of Rights* as well as resolutions and statements regarding intellectual freedom. The RILA statement on the use of filtering software in libraries, adopted by the Executive Board last October, is also included. When the handbook is completed, the Committee hopes it can be accessed via the RILA home page as a web document. The IFC also planned a program for the RILA conference that featured Professor John Carroll at UMass Dartmouth discussing censorship and the Internet. Current IFC members are Rachel Carpenter, Paul Lefebure, Steve Thompson, Jon Tryon, and Carla Weiss, Chair.

The theme chosen by ALA President-Elect Ann Symons for her presidential year is intellectual freedom and an advisory committee appointed by Ann has drafted an intellectual freedom statement for the 21st century – “Libraries: An American Value” – to provide a framework in which the library profession can address critical intellectual freedom questions and issues. The draft statement can be read at www.ala.org/alaorg/pe/statement.html and will be discussed and revised as necessary at ALA's Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

Legislative Action Committee:

Spring has provided a positive climate for library development in the state. On April 15th Governor Almond reinstated the public library construction and capital improvement program

with an Executive Order. Regional programs in Cranston, Peace Dale, Lincoln, East Providence, and Newport were planned to discuss the goal of securing an additional \$1.5 million in state funding with legislators, trustees, and library staff. This level of funding would bring libraries approximately to 17% of the overall 25% goal mandated by state law. Lastly the committee also is working with CRIARL to secure funding to enhance electronic infrastructure resource sharing initiatives on a statewide basis.

Hard Hat Area: Library Construction News

The State: In celebration of National Library Week, Governor Lincoln Almond signed an executive order reauthorizing funding for the State's public library construction program. State support for public library construction was put on hold in 1991 due to the poor economy and only projects approved before 1991 had been receiving state monies. Now communities can begin submitting applications this summer to the Office of Library & Information Services to request funding for new public library construction projects.

Exeter: The Exeter Town Council recently voted to place a \$500,000

bond referendum for a new library on the ballot in November. If approved, the funds would go toward a new 6,000 square foot facility that would replace the tiny Manton Free Library currently located at the Town Hall.

North Kingstown: On March 23rd construction began on North Kingstown Free Library's renovation and addition. The foundation has been poured for the two-story addition on the north end of the building and the bricks on this wall have been removed. The addition will double the size of the children's room and create a new expanded special collections area and a small meeting room. Temporary walls are in place separating the library from renovation inside the building and work also has started on converting the deck at the rear of the main level to a new atrium-styled browsing area. The library will be open during construction.

Warwick: Warwick Public Library's building project is about 30% complete, with the demolition portion done and construction portion begun in earnest. The project involves two additions which will add 28,000 square feet to the existing building. The one-story North (or Sandy Lane side) addition is taking shape, with the cement block exterior walls completed and the roof in place. This addition will house most of the book collection and a large reading and study area.



Governor Lincoln Almond at the Newport Public Library, where he announced the reauthorization of the State's public library construction program. With the Governor are (l-r) Joan Ress Reeves, Chair of the Library Board of RI; Anne Toll, Director of the Newport Public Library; and Barbara Weaver, Chief Information Officer, OLIS.

PHOTO: JOSEPH MCGOVERN, OLIS

The two-story South (parking lot area) addition has been framed with steel columns and beams. The ground floor will house meetings rooms and a café and the second floor will house the Children's room. Duct work has been installed throughout the building and electrical work continues. Interior partitions have been constructed and drywall was installed in May.

West Greenwich: The Loutitt Library recently completed a \$116,000 expansion project which provided a new wing for the library. The new 26-by-61-foot wing mirrors the main floor of the old wing. The two wings are linked by a corridor that once housed the children's collection. The corridor now serves as the library's main entrance and houses the circulation desk.

PEOPLE

ALICIA ANTONE, Library Technician at East Providence Public Library and a student at the URI Graduate School of Library & Information Studies (GSLIS), has received an ALA Spectrum Initiative grant of \$5,000 for her library education.

The Spectrum Initiative is the American Library Association's effort to recruit minorities to the library profession by awarding fifty \$5,000 scholarships a year to minorities enrolled or accepted at accredited library schools throughout the country.

SUSAN AYLWARD, Assistant Director of the North Kingstown Free Library, received her Ph.D. in English from the University of RI in May. The subject of her dissertation was Rhode Island author David Plante.

Professor **HERB CARSON** has been appointed Interim Director of the URI GSLIS until the arrival of new Director Michael Havener next January.

JANINA D'ABATE, former Director of the North Scituate Public Library and President of Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library Association, recently was named Alumni of the Year by the URI GSLIS.

BETH DECRISTOFARO recently was appointed Electronic Resources Librarian at the Lincoln Public Library.

JIM GILES is now Interim Director of the Westerly Public Library.

URI GSLIS Professors **DONNA GILTON** and **CHERYL MCCARTHY** have been promoted to Assistant Professor with tenure effective July 1st.

IN MEMORIAM

JEAN NASH

Director of the West Warwick Public Library from 1974 to 1994, Jean passed away on March 31st.

Her library career included more than twelve years as a branch librarian at Providence Public Library prior to coming to West Warwick and two terms as President of RILA.

PAMELA GOLLIS, former Shared Resources Coordinator at Providence Public Library, is now librarian at New England Financial in Boston.

DONNA GOOD, Narragansett High School Librarian and Past-President of RIEMA, recently was appointed to the Library Board of RI to represent school libraries.

JENNY LAPERRIERE, Director of Foster's public libraries, has been appointed to the Library Board of RI to represent small public libraries.

BARBARA KENNY, Library Aide at North Kingstown Free Library and a student at the URI GSLIS, recently was named a recipient of an ALA Spectrum Initia-

tive grant. In addition, she has received a URI Foundation Minorities Fellowship and a scholarship from the Medical Library Association.

PAMELA PERDUE recently was appointed Children's Librarian at the East Providence Public Library.

DEBORAH PETERSON has been appointed Project Coordinator for the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative, which has established family literacy programs in various public libraries in the state. Four program leaders for the project have also been named: **HEATHER ZORN** at the East Providence Public Library; **BARBARA GORDON** at the Pawtucket Public Library; **ROBERTA EMERSON** at the Newport Public Library; and **ROSE-ANNE TRISSLER** at the William Hall Free Library.

REGAN ROBINSON, Director of the Westerly Public Library for the past five years, is now Director of the newly-established Stevens County Rural Library District in eastern Washington (WA).

BRYAN STRNISTE is the new Reference and Adult Services Librarian at Woonsocket-Harris Public Library.

MAUREEN TAYLOR is the new Library Director at the RI Historical Society.

MICHELLE VALLEE recently was appointed Children's Services Coordinator at Cranston Public Library.

LISA WINCH has been appointed Bibliographic Instruction Librarian at Johnson and Wales University.

BULLETIN BOARD

On March 19th, state and local officials and members of the Rhode Island library community gathered at the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library in Johnston for the dedication of the Library's new 12-computer, 5-printer, 2-scanner network complete with twin 14 disk drive CD-ROM towers.

The bulk of the funding (\$50,000) for the new computer network came from the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library Association, using the last of the legacy of Ralph Mohr, who with various other town residents, founded the library in 1961. Supplemental funding came from the Champlin Foundation (\$16,000) and a portion of the \$8,000 grant made to the Library by the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation in 1997. Among those who spoke at the dedication were Mayor Louis Perrota, David King, Executive Director of the Champlin Foundations, and Barbara Weaver, Chief Information Officer for the State of Rhode Island.

The Greenville Public Library has embarked upon a Digital Preservation Project, which has the goal of preserving documents of research and historical interest to local community. The first two documents chosen for the project are now available on the library's web site. They are *Blizzard: The Week the State Stood Still: February 6-13, 1978. A Special Supplement to the Providence Sunday Journal, March 19, 1978* and the Greenville Public Library Dedication - May 5th, 1991 booklet celebrating the expansion and renovation of the library.

The Providence Journal-Bulletin Company, copyright owners, granted the library permission to digitize *Blizzard*, a document requested several times each year by Smithfield school students who must prepare reports on this event. The dedication booklet preserves, in addition to the text, photographs of the Greenville Public Library at age one year in 1882, at age 74 in 1956, and at age 109 in 1991. In preparation is the digitizing of *The Greenville Public Library: The First Hundred Years 1882-1982* by Kay Kirlin Moore.

A Guide to the Redwood Library and Athenaeum has been published by the Library and is now available for purchase. Written by Eileen Warburton, designed by Jane Carey, and edited by Redwood's staff, this first-ever guide includes reproductions of selected items in the Library's art collection and numerous previously unpublished photographs of the building and collections.

The 40-page guide contains 53 illustrations, 25 in color and is available at the Redwood Library, 50 Bellevue Ave. Newport, RI 02840 at \$7.50 for Library members and \$10 for non-members. Copies may be ordered by mail; include \$2.50 for postage. For more information contact the Library at 401-847-0292.

Check out *How to Search for Medical Information*, a WWW site that was originally developed for the Reference Round Table on "Medical Information for the Layperson" held at East Greenwich Free Library in January. Put together by Frank Kellerman of Brown University, Mary Zammarelli of St. Joseph Hospital, and Robert Balliot of East Greenwich Free Library, the site is an invaluable source for librarians serving health care consumers.

It is found at <www.ultranet.com/~egrlib/www.htm>.

The URI GSLIS will offer a Continuing Education program on July 14th from 3-5 PM at the URI Library by the new GSLIS Director, Dr. Michael Havener. He will be presenting on "Evaluating Web Sites." A welcoming reception for him will take place after the presentation. So mark your calendars for Bastille Day at URI to meet and hear Michael Havener.

RILA Listserv Information

The RILA LISTSERV, RILA-L, is an e-mail discussion forum through which RILA members can share ideas, questions, and concerns with other RILA members.

To subscribe:

Send an e-mail message to listserv@uriacc.uri.edu, leaving the subject line blank. In the body of the message type: SUBSCRIBE RILA-L yourfirstname yourlastname. Be sure to disable any automatic signature features of your mail program.

To Send a Message to the List:

To send a message to all the people currently subscribed to the list, simply send mail to the list address: rila-l@uriacc.uri.edu. Note that the list address is different from the LISTSERV address. Be sure to send all commands to listserv@uriacc.uri.edu, not rila-l@uriacc.uri.edu.

To Unsubscribe:

Send an e-mail message to listserv@uriacc.uri.edu, leaving the subject line blank. In the body of the message type: SIGNOFF RILA-L. Be sure to disable any automatic signature features of your mail program.

To Temporarily Suspend Mail

Send an e-mail message to listserv@uriacc.uri.edu, leaving the subject line blank. In the body of the message type: SUSPEND RILA-L. Be sure to disable any automatic signature features of your mail program.

To resume receiving mail from the list after having suspended it, send an e-mail message to listserv@uriacc.uri.edu, leaving the subject line blank. In the body of the message type: RESUME RILA-L. Be sure to disable any automatic signature features of your mail program.

Are You a Crook?

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- When creating a web name link to useful, fun, and informative sites – DO NOT reproduce this information and include it on your own! (This includes compilations of hotlinks, for even they may be protected).
- Once material is created, it is protected – this includes e-mail!
- Once copyright violation becomes willful, it is considered a criminal act punishable by severe fines.
- Graphics may be protected by trademark in addition to being copyrighted.
- Online course materials should have limited access via password and only remain online while the class is being offered as a means of conforming to fair use doctrine.
- Online copyright infringement is much easier to identify and track than that which occurs using printed resources.

The following web sites provide a wealth of information regarding copyright history, fundamentals and legislation. For a history of copyright, visit the ARL (Association of Research Libraries) page at arl.cni.org/info/frn/copy/timeline.html. Myths are debunked and basic questions answered on the Stanford University Library's Copyright and Fair Use page (fairuse.stanford.edu/library/faq.html), the Copyright Website (www.benedict.com/home.htm), Georgia Harper's Crash Course in Copyright (www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty.cprtindx.htm) and Answers to 10 Copyright Myths (www.clari.net/brad/copymyths.html).

Legislation information can be found from the American Library Association (www.ala.org/news/alert320.html) and again at the ARL page (arl.cni.org/

info/frn/copy/copytoc.html). As always, when in search of information and news regarding the Internet, refer to the Electronic Frontier Foundation (www.eff.org).

Unfortunately, it is not enough to just be knowledgeable about copyright. As information professionals it is our responsibility to educate our users (and yes, in some way to protect ourselves and our organizations). What can be done?

- Include a statement about copyright on the Internet in an electronic access policy, visible to all patrons who use those resources.
- Post warnings on computers (if you allow downloading to diskette) and printers, in addition to the traditional notices on copy machines.
- Take caution and think about the needs of the patrons when negotiating license agreements with information vendors – don't allow access to be so restrictive that it becomes a problem and ineffective.

The future will bring forth many modifications in current copyright law, which is quite evident when perusing pending legislation. So in addition to learning the best search strategies using AltaVista or DogPile, we must also keep abreast of the status of copyright law. The irony lies in the fact that while we strive to improve patron access to an apparent infinite amount of material on the World Wide Web, we must also aim to protect the rights of that information's owner, which may involve limiting this same access. Unfortunately, the medium of electronic information makes it so much easier to forget copyright. But we must not, for remember, Big Brother is watching.

Lori A. Rose is a librarian at Warwick Public Library and the New England Institute of Technology

DATES

June 25-July 1:

ALA Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.

September:

National Library Card Sign-up Month

September 20-27:

Banned Books Week

October 4-6:

New England Library Association Annual Conference, Providence, RI

President's Message

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like to tell us. Perhaps there is no great need for it, perhaps our members have other outlets for info sharing, perhaps no one knows the address. These are questions we need to answer. Hmm, this sounds like a perfect listserv discussion to me. We have reprinted all the information you need for subscribing to the RILA listserv elsewhere in this issue. (See page 6.)

I'm always grateful when I come across something that reminds me of the noble purposes of reading and libraries. So I'll close with something I reread recently in Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay "Books": "Consider what you have in the smallest chosen library. A company of the wisest and wittiest men that could be picked out of all civil countries, in a thousand years, have set in best order the results of their learning and wisdom. The men themselves were hid and inaccessible, solitary, impatient of interruption, fenced by etiquette; but the thought which they did not uncover to their bosom friend is here written out in transparent words to us, the strangers of another age."

Are You a Crook?

BY LORI A. ROSE

THE CCRI CAMPUS IN LINCOLN recently held a teleconference sponsored by the PBS Adult Learning Satellite Service titled "Am I a Crook? Copyright Issues on the Internet." Unfortunately, only a small handful of interested individuals attended. Realizing that many librarians and other information professionals may regret missing this conference, I decided to take the opportunity to share not only what was presented, but also the information that I have gleaned from the World Wide Web on this topic.

The Internet has increased the simplicity and speed with which information can be transferred from one computer to many, manipulated or modified unbeknown to end-users, and downloaded and widely distributed. Just as librarians have always been advocates of intellectual property rights in the "Age of Guttenberg," it is even more vital in this "Digital Age" that we continue in our role as protector and guardian of information. Not only are we responsible for providing access to information, we must also ensure that the access we provide is not abused.

Please keep the following points in mind when confronted with an incidence of possible copyright infringement, especially when it pertains to the WWW.

- Standard guidelines for printed materials apply to digital materials.
- Refer to the guidelines for multimedia regarding the fair use of downloading video, sound, etc.
- **Always** assume that the text, graphic, video, audio, etc. is protected under copyright, even if no notice is present.
- **Never** assume that the author of the web page has the rights to the material that may be on his/her/their page.

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Please note our new address!
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